

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-8 and 10-20 are pending. In the Office Action, claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mallory et al. (U.S. Pat. Appl. Pub. No. 2002/0006136 A1).

Allowable Subject Matter

Preliminarily, the Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-7 and 11-20 are allowed and for indicating claim 10 includes allowable subject matter. In particular, claim 10 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

102 Rejection

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mallory et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 8 recites, “selecting one of the first and second routing protocols for use in the node based on predetermined criteria in response to the predetermined period of time not being expired.” This feature is not taught by Mallory et al. Accordingly, claims 8 and 10 are believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

As all of the outstanding rejections have been traversed and all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, the Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowability. If the undersigned attorney can assist in any matters regarding examination of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Rangnekar et al.

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